

February 17, 2010

Greetings in Christ!

Today we begin the Lenten journey. This is especially significant for those of us who believe in a Creator, who understand man's fall into sin, and God's grace through His Son Jesus Christ. May your journey be one that clarifies your sinfulness, His grace, and Christ's sacrifice and victory!

Creation and Life issues in the news:

Pro-life Groups Voice Concern About New Ellaone 'emergency Contraceptive'

CNA

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Feb 2, 2010 — A new "emergency contraception" pill called Ellaone is being distributed in the U.K. and claims to be effective up to five days after sexual relations. Some pro-life groups have opposed the drug, saying its use could kill a newly conceived human being.

Dr. Donna Harrison, president of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, told ABC News that fertilization of egg and sperm can only happen within 24 hours of sexual relations. Any emergency contraception five days after intercourse must work by preventing the fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus.

"To label this as emergency contraception when it's clearly an abortive action is dishonest," Harrison charged. "This is a thinly-veiled attempt to get an abortion drug over-the-counter."

The U.K. group ProLife Alliance said the pill, called Ulipristal Acetate, has the potential to act as an abortifacient. It said the drug could prevent a new embryo from implanting in a woman's womb. To read more follow this link:

<http://www.lifeissues.net/news.php?newsID=00027690&topic>

Nature Watch: We are now into the time of year when the length of days increases by over 3 minutes every day. By the end of March, we will have 2 hours more sunlight than we do currently. The sun is also rising higher in the sky, warming dark surfaces quickly. Temps can jump 15-20 degrees in a matter of an hour or two at this time of year. The sun's height in the horizon has an affect on nature as does the length of day. Hormones are released in certain wildlife and birds that begins to prepare them for breeding season. Deer are now 4-5 months pregnant and nature begins to make decisions based on weather. Those deer that have not had adequate food, may absorb one or more fetuses as their reserve fat disappears. Watch for bluebirds. Some early arrivals can be expected in late February or early March. By the end of this month or early next we should begin to hear mating calls of Cardinals, finches and sparrows, with some nest construction beginning soon after.

Program Information:

Women's Retreat

Women come from around the state for our annual **Women's Retreat**. You will meet ladies from Duluth and Esko, St. Cloud, Alexandria, the Twin Cities, Fargo-Moorhead, and more.

Dr. David Menton will be our presenter. Dr. Menton is a cellular biologist by trade and is currently a speaker and researcher for Answers in Genesis. He will speaking on the topic of “**Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.**” Heather Ruesch, Christian performance artist from Garrison, MN will lead us in music and will provide a concert Saturday evening. Price includes two nights lodging, meals, snacks, and the concert.

Dates: April 16-18, 2010. **Cost:** \$89 Saturday rate is \$40.

The kids from Zion Lutheran School will be out here next week for Winter Outdoor Education.

From the Task force: The Task Force will be meeting this coming Monday, February 22, 2010. They will be reviewing some documents, continuing to brainstorm activities for Christ Serve Ranch, and reviewing some of the upcoming summer programs.

God's Word: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. **1 Corinthians 15:38-39**

Prayer List: 1.) Please remember your pastor during the busy Lenten season. 2.) Continue to give thanks for those who support our efforts to move forward with the purchase of Christ Serve Ranch. 3.) Please remember our staff as they are busy traveling during this time of year. 4.) Our Creator used three words, “Let there be” to create the universe and everything in it. Pray that He would use those same words to provide Christ Serve Ranch. 5.) Praise God that yet another person who had doubts about our efforts has now become a supporter.

Link of the week: <http://www.creationsafaris.com/crev201002.htm>

Resource of the week: DVD- *The Creation Adventure Team* produced by Answers in Genesis and Gospel Communications.

Question and Answer:

Question: How many bird species do you have at the Island and/or Christ Serve Ranch?

Answer: somewhere around 100 or more. We have 7 different woodpecker varieties.

According to birding-Minnesota there are 314 regular species and 42 casual species.

Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center at Christ Serve Ranch
45011 230th St
Henning, MN 56551
info@christserveranch.org
www.christserveranch.org

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